



For immediate release, Tuesday 25 August, 2026

Celebration Mile and Prestige Fillies' Stakes headline August Bank Holiday Racing at Goodwood Racecourse presented by Virgin Bet

Horseracing returns to Goodwood Racecourse this August Bank Holiday weekend with three days of quality action on the Sussex Downs, from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 August. Saturday's card is headed by the Group 2 Virgin Bet Celebration Mile, before attention turns on Sunday to the Group 3 Virgin Bet Prestige Fillies' Stakes, a pair of contests that regularly provide a compelling late-summer examination of top-class milers and the season's leading juvenile fillies.

Group 2 Virgin Bet Celebration Mile preview

Saturday's feature, the Group 2 Virgin Bet Celebration Mile, looks set for a fiercely competitive renewal should some of the current 17 entries stand their ground at the confirmation stage. Run over a mile and worth £200,000 in prize money, the contest pits proven course performers against an exciting crop of three-year-olds and promises a fascinating clash to headline the opening day.

Heading the market is DISTANT STORM, the exciting Charlie Appleby-trained colt who would provide a genuine Classic star for racegoers to see in the flesh. Carrying the famous Godolphin silks, the son of Night Of Thunder finished third in this year's 2,000 Guineas and went one better when runner-up in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, before returning to winning ways in the Group 3 Prix Daphnis at Deauville last time. Saturday's assignment against his elders looks an intriguing next assignment for one of the season's leading three-year-old milers.

Eve Johnson Houghton's stable star ZAVATERI holds an entry and would be a huge draw should connections elect to run. A Group 1 winner, the popular colt landed the National Stakes at the Curragh as a juvenile before sustaining a setback which ruled him out for much of this season. He has returned with consistent efforts against the very best milers in the top races including 5th in the Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes.

SHAYEM flies the flag for the in-form Karl Burke stable. A smart, progressive three-year-old, he landed the Group 3 HKJC Worldpool Thoroughbred Stakes at the Qatar Goodwood Festival this summer and returns to a track he clearly relishes with more to offer over the same trip.

The Sussex Downs holds special memories for QIRAT, and his participation would be a real crowd-pleaser. Trained by Ralph Beckett, the popular grey caused a stir when winning the Group 1 Visit Qatar Sussex Stakes at Goodwood in 2025, and a return to the scene of his finest hour would be warmly received by racegoers.

SEAGULLS ELEVEN adds further Group-race interest for Hugo Palmer. A multiple black-type performer with strong course-and-distance credentials, he has proved himself a reliable competitor at this level and boasts the sort of form that makes him a live player in a competitive renewal.

ISAAC NEWTON could carry the Coolmore silks for the all-conquering Aidan O'Brien yard, adding an international dimension and the glamour of one of the sport's most powerful operations to the Sussex Downs, while stablemate EXPANDED is another possible O'Brien contender.

Completing a mouth-watering line-up of potential runners is BOILING POINT, a familiar and popular runner at Goodwood for Karl Burke. The five-year-old landed the Cambridgeshire off top weight last autumn and struck again at this year's May Festival, and is joined among the older brigade by Julie Camacho's NAQEEB, a Listed winner at the course last season and a half-brother to the brilliant Baaced - alongside David O'Meara's dual course winner AUDIENCE, Wathnan Racing's DIEGO VENTURA and Chasemore Farm's mare ARISAIG, all adding depth to what promises to be a thrilling afternoon on the Sussex Downs.

Group 3 Virgin Bet Prestige Fillies' Stakes preview

Sunday's card shifts the focus towards the season's emerging juvenile fillies, with the Group 3 Virgin Bet Prestige Fillies' Stakes providing an important seven-furlong test for two-year-olds with black-type aspirations. Worth £100,000 in prize money, the contest has long held a reputation as an informative late-summer trial and this year's 14 entries once again feature several promising prospects.

NUIT D'ECLAIR heads the entries on official ratings for Kevin Philippart De Foy. The daughter of Night Of Thunder made a winning start at Newbury before running with credit in Group 3 company at Ascot last time, and the Amo Racing-owned filly looks a leading player as she bids for a first success at this level.

Karl Burke's LIGHT OF DAWN is another towards the head of the entries. Representing Wathnan Racing, she has shown a consistently smart level of form and would relish the step up to Group 3 company.

COAXED could provide one of the more intriguing runners for John and Thady Gosden. A Cheveley Park Stud homebred, the once-raced winner is out of Queen Elizabeth II Stakes heroine Persuasive and became the very first winner for her sire, the mighty Baaced, when making a striking debut at Kempton. She remains open to significant improvement.

Richard Hannon's APEROLL brings a progressive profile having won last time out, while Joseph O'Brien's DANCING DESTINY arrives with the most experience in the field following a busy and consistent juvenile campaign. Mrs John Harrington's APOLLO'S COMET could add an Irish challenge, with Juddmonte's CELESTIA for Harry Charlton and Michael Bell's BAYSIDE VIEW further strengthening the entry.

The field is completed by NICELY, a second string for Kevin Philippart De Foy, alongside EABHA for Eve Johnson Houghton, GLORIOUS GAME for Hugo Palmer, Sir Mark Prescott's MARTINET, Charlie Johnston's unbeaten REDLINE and Ed Walker's SIENA STORM.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Tickets

August Bank Holiday presented by Virgin Bet takes place from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 August 2026. Tickets start from just £18 per day, with under-18s going free. Tickets, dining, and hospitality are available to purchase on the website. Visit Goodwood.com or call 01243 755055 to find out more.

Contact

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For all other press enquiries please contact: Media@goodwood.com

Imagery and news from Goodwood are available from our [Press & Media site](#)

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About Goodwood Racecourse

Introduced to the Goodwood Estate in 1802 by the 3rd Duke of Richmond, the Goodwood Racecourse has long been steeped in horseracing heritage. From Lord George Bentinck's winning horse in the 1836 St Leger, which was transported in secret from Goodwood to Doncaster, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's horse Love Affair taking its final win, the racecourse has been home to some significant moments in horseracing history. Situated on the South Downs and hosting 19 race days from May through October, thousands of racegoers flock to one of the world's most beautiful racecourses each year to enjoy a season of top-class racing and entertainment. With a varied calendar of fixtures, race day highlights include Three Friday Nights, the May Festival, the Qatar Goodwood Festival presented by Visit Qatar - more affectionately known as Glorious Goodwood - and the October Season Finale, to name a few.